

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106071

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION QUITO INFO LIMA, BUENOS AIRES, LAPAZ
BOGOTA, SANTIAGO, RIO DE JANEIRO FROM SECSTATE 7 MAY.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106071

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PE, EC, AR, BL, CO, CI

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - BRANIFF SCHEDULE

1. BRANIFF PLANS OPERATE AN AMENDED SCHEDULE OF
OPERATIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA EFFECTIVE JUNE 1. CHANGES ARE
DUE TO RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON BRANIFF BY PERU SINCE FEB 1
WHICH PREVENT BRANIFF FROM CARRYING LOCAL TRAFFIC ON SOME
SEGMENTS AND ARE DESIGNED CUT BRANIFF'S LOSSES FROM SUCH
RESTRICTIONS. BRANIFF HAS FILED OR WILL SHORTLY BE FILING
JUNE 1 SCHEDULE WITH AVIATION AUTHORITIES OF VARIOUS
COUNTRIES INVOLVED.

2. DEPT/CAB ASSESSMENT IS THAT BOLIVIA, CHILE, BRAZIL AND
PROBABLY COLOMBIA WILL NOT OBJECT BECAUSE SCHEDULE CHANGES
IN THESE COUNTRIES ARE MINOR. PERU SHOULD HAVE NO CAUSE
OBJECT BECAUSE CHANGES ARE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH TERMS
ITS PERU OPERATING PERMIT.

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3. RE ARGENTINE SITUATION, WHILE CHANGES APPEAR TO BE

CONSISTENT WITH BRANIFF'S OPERATING PERMIT, IT REMAINS POSSIBLE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES MIGHT ATTEMPT CREATE DIFFICULTIES, AS THEY DID EARLIER WITH PAN AM. BRANIFF SCHEDULE INCLUDES NINTH FREQUENCY WHICH WE EXPECT ARGENTINA WILL DENY AS IT HAS BEFORE.

4. WE DO ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS WITH ECUADOR, HOWEVER. BRANIFF CHANGES ARE IN TWO MAIN CATEGORIES. FIRST, THE FLIGHT WHICH ECUADOR FORCED BRANIFF TO SWITCH FROM QUITO TO GUAYAQUIL WOULD GO BACK INTO QUITO FOR A TOTAL OF SIX AT QUITO AND FIVE AT GUAYAQUIL. SECONDLY, ALL BUT ONE OF THE SIX QUITO FLIGHTS WOULD TURN AROUND AT QUITO INSTEAD OF OPERATING TO BEYOND POINTS. BRANIFF CLAIMS IT CANNOT AVOID TURNING FLIGHTS AT QUITO WITHOUT UNDESIRABLE SCHEDULE CHANGES ELSEWHERE. RELEVANT TO FOREGOING IS THAT ON APRIL 18 ECUATORIANA FILED WITH CAB A SCHEDULE TO BE EFFECTIVE MAY 18 WHICH WOULD INCREASE ITS FLIGHTS AT MIAMI FROM FIVE TO SEVEN. (ECUATORIANA SUSPENDED ITS SIXTH AND SEVENTH FLIGHTS IN FEBRUARY.)

5. WE ARE ATTEMPTING MAKE SOME INFORMAL SOUNDINGS OF ECUADOR'S REACTION TO BRANIFF SCHEDULE. IF DIFFICULTIES ARE INDICATED, WHICH APPEAR LIKELY, ONE OPTION WOULD BE HOLD ECUATORIANA'S SCHEDULE AS HOSTAGE. IT ALSO MAY BE IN OUR INTEREST TO REQUEST EARLY CONSULTATIONS WITH ECUADOR.

6. POSTS SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE SHOULD BRANIFF BE FORCED TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS IN PERU, WHICH IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY AND COULD OCCUR AS EARLY AS JUNE, IT WILL HAVE TO MAKE FURTHER SCHEDULE CHANGES.

7. NO ACTION ON FOREGOING IS REQUIRED AT THIS TIME. POSTS SHOULD REPORT ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT REACTION TO BRANIFF SCHEDULE FILING OR OTHER RELATED AVIATION DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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